COVER PHOTOS: STARTING TOP LEFT, CLOCKWISE: YOUTH IN ARTS, MARIN CENTER EXHIBITION, MILL VALLEY CONCERT IN THE PLAZA, MARIN CENTER - LOBBY LOUNGE, MARIN CENTER EXHIBITION, SMITH RAFAEL FILM CENTER
BEAUTY
DIVERSITY
TRANSFORMATION
SPIRIT
PLANNING TEAM

ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! STEERING COMMITTEE

Laura Bradley Davis | Principal
LBD CONSULTING

Tod Brody | Executive Director
MARIN SYMPHONY

Gabriella Calicchio
Director | MARIN DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL SERVICES
Executive Director | MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Lesley Currier | Managing Director
MARIN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Tammy Edmonson | Communication Coordinator
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COUNTY OF MARIN
COUNTY OF MARIN INFORMATION SERVICES
AND TECHNOLOGY
**MARIN’S PATH TO A CULTURAL PLAN**

**AN OVERVIEW BY CO-LEADERS OF THE PLANNING PROCESS, GABRIELLA CALICCHIO AND TAMMY EDMONSON**

**SINCE WELL BEFORE THE BRIDGES SPANNED THE BAY,** Marin County has drawn and spawned a rich concentration of creative talent: painters and poets, musicians and filmmakers, actors, writers, dancers, comedians — innovators of every discipline. And so our community has long enjoyed an artistic abundance that unites us in shared experiences, fuels our capacity for wonder and invention, and stimulates our local economies. Informed by this history, it is easy to suppose that Marin’s creative sector will forever bloom if left to its own devices. But in a world of change, how healthy is Marin’s creative landscape, and what role might our community play in shaping and securing its own creative future? When Supervisor Kate Sears introduced the two of us in 2016, she knew these questions were looming in both of our minds.

Soon after that introduction, we invited arts leaders from throughout the County to join us, under the banner of MARIN COALITION FOR THE ARTS, to share their perspectives on the state of the arts in Marin. Over the course of a year, a portrait emerged of a creative sector that — while broad and colorful — is nevertheless struggling and shrinking due to Marin’s high cost of living, declining philanthropic support, and a lack of coordinated arts leadership. Marin arts nonprofits, we learned, increasingly face a choice to cut programming or close their doors. Diminishing performance and exhibit opportunities squeeze our remaining resident artists, who continue to leave the County in large numbers in search of affordable, arts-friendly communities. Marin’s low income communities and communities of color — that have never been equitably reflected or served within the creative sector — face deepening challenges. Although it is part of the State-mandated curriculum, arts education in the County’s 18 public school districts is widely variable and, in some cases, virtually nonexistent.

The Coalition’s consensus: *Marin can no longer afford to leave its endangered arts resources to chance; we must plan and work together for the creative future that we want.*

Propelled by this mandate, we worked with MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION — a nonprofit under the umbrella of the MARIN DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL SERVICES — to obtain grant funding and employ the expert CULTURAL PLANNING GROUP to lead the development of a comprehensive arts and culture master plan for Marin.
In September 2018, a Steering Committee made up of Marin community and business leaders launched the public planning process known as ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN!. The six-month process engaged more than 1,700 Marin residents through interviews, surveys, and dozens of community forums aimed at identifying the community’s unique values, goals, and priorities in the arts arena. To ensure that the plan would be well-informed and data driven, our team conducted unprecedented research charting the size, shape and economic impact of Marin’s existing creative sector. This included an inventory and map of approximately 1,750 Marin arts businesses and nonprofits, and an AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS study documenting the $76.4 million dollar annual contribution of Marin arts nonprofits to our economy.

The robust goals of the resulting plan are carefully tailored to Marin’s own creative landscape, and to the needs and values articulated by this community around its three overarching aims: raising the profile and visibility of the arts in Marin; ensuring that the benefits of the arts flow to every member of our community; and working collaboratively to sustain Marin’s artistic resources.

We are inspired by the enthusiasm of this community, and grateful to everyone who invested their time and talent to help chart a path for the future of the arts in Marin County. We appreciate the leadership of our Board of Supervisors whose members hosted planning forums in each of their districts, and we especially want to thank Supervisor Sears for her service on the Steering Committee, and for making the introduction that sparked this effort. We look forward to continuing our work together on the plan’s implementation for an ever more creative Marin.

Gabriella Calicchio | Director
MARIN DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL SERVICES

Tammy Edmonson | Community Arts Advocate
COMMUNITY ARTS ADVOCATE
BENEFITS OF THE ARTS

AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF MARIN’S RESIDENTS value the arts for their own sake — 94%. But 91% also consider them important to the community. What are these benefits? Why do the arts matter?1

94%

ARTS STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY

The arts represent a larger share of the nation’s economy — 4.2% of GDP — than transportation, tourism, and agriculture (source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis).

ARTS SPARK CREATIVITY & INNOVATION

Creativity is among the top five applied skills sought by business leaders, per the Conference Board’s Ready to Innovate report — with 72% saying creativity is of high importance when hiring.

ARTS UNIFY COMMUNITIES

67% of Americans believe “the arts unify our communities regardless of age, race, and ethnicity” and 62% agree that “the arts help me understand other cultures better” — a perspective observed across all demographic and economic categories.

ARTS DRIVE TOURISM & REVENUE TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

Attendees at nonprofit arts events spend $31.47 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission on items such as meals, parking and babysitters — valuable commerce for local businesses. One-third come from outside the county in which the arts event takes place, and these visitors average $47.57 in event-related spending. Arts travelers are ideal tourists, staying longer and spending more to seek out authentic cultural experiences.

ARTS IMPROVE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs, standardized test scores, and attendance, and lower drop-out rates. These academic benefits are reaped by students regardless of socio-economic status. Yet, the US Department of Education reports that access to arts education for students of color is significantly lower than for their white peers.

ARTS IMPROVE HEALTHCARE

Nearly one-half of the nation’s healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and even staff. 78% deliver those programs because of their healing benefits to patients — shorter hospital stays, better pain management, less medication, shorter recuperation time, and reduced depression.

ARTS HAVE SOCIAL IMPACT

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA researchers have demonstrated that a high concentration of the arts in a city leads to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, higher child welfare, and lower poverty rates.

1 Source: Adapted from TEN REASONS TO SUPPORT THE ARTS, AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS, 2018, https://blog.americansforthearts.org/2018/03/09/ten-reasons-to-support-the-arts-in-2018
HOW WE DID IT

PLANNING METHODOLOGY

The planning process launched with an event on September 6, 2018 at the Marin Center. Over 125 people attended the event, a clear indication of the importance of this plan to community leaders, artists, and arts organizations. It continued with numerous civic engagement events and activities seeking to hear the voices of Marin residents.

The central questions asked were:
- What is the current state of arts and culture in Marin?
- What do residents want the future to be?
- How do we get there?

The planning methodology, designed to answer these questions and many others, is based on a triangulation approach, using qualitative and quantitative methodologies, subject matter experts, and secondary data sources. This method provides a more holistic view of the issues. The following is a brief summary of the reach into the community. A full engagement report and additional research is available in the appendix.

THE NUMBERS

Qualitative
- 5 steering committee meetings
- Launch Event - 125 people attended the event
- 28 stakeholder interviews
- 21 group meetings
- 5 District Forums, one in each supervisorial district
- Town Hall to review and comment on the draft plan - 150 people attended the event

Quantitative/Observational
- Open online community-wide survey (791 completes)
- Statistically valid telephone survey (400 completes, land and cell phone lines)
- Americans for the Arts’ economic impact study of Marin’s nonprofit arts community
- Arts and cultural asset mapping
- Review of background plans and studies
MARIN HIGHLY VALUES ARTS AND CULTURE and has an enviable artistic community and heritage. Yet Marin’s artistic abundance is not shared with everyone and the creative sector faces significant challenges to its sustainability and ability to serve the community.

ARTISTIC CHARACTERISTICS & CHALLENGES

High Public Support for the Arts
Locals take great pride and enjoyment in the County’s artistic richness. The community survey demonstrates that more than 90% of Marin residents consider the arts to be important to their own lives and to the Marin community.

Limited Visibility and Awareness of the Arts
Marin has limited arts marketing and communications, resulting in relatively low public awareness of the scale, scope and quality of Marin’s artistic resources. The number one reason people don’t attend more often is that they don’t hear about what’s happening.

Sophisticated Audience Attending Elsewhere
Marin has many sophisticated arts attendees but almost half attend most often outside Marin.

“Safe” Programs and Artistic Identity
There are many innovative and contemporary programs but also much “safe” material geared toward Marin’s majority, white, affluent and aging population. There is a growing perception that Marin’s artistic offering is mainstream or unremarkable.

Artists Moving Elsewhere
Declining performance and exhibit opportunities, and the rising cost to live and work in Marin, mean that artists and innovators often must leave Marin to pursue their careers in a more affordable and conducive environment.

Systemic Challenges for Arts Organizations
Arts and cultural nonprofits have few institutional funding sources, limited access to support services, increasing operating costs, and a lack of affordable, suitable spaces for performance, exhibition, studio and rehearsal.
**Cultural Equity**

Marin County has the second highest level of income inequality of all 58 California counties, and the highest level of racial disparity in terms of economic opportunity, housing, crime and justice, health access, education, democracy, and a healthy built environment.

**Cultural Inequities**

Marin’s economic and racial inequities are echoed and reinforced across Marin’s cultural landscape: in arts education opportunities, both in and out of school; in the fact that available arts offerings do not adequately reflect or serve the County’s diverse populations; and in the disparate burden borne by poor and minority communities arising from the shortage of arts funding and of performance and exhibit space. Underserved communities face added hurdles to arts participation due to geographic isolation, limited transportation, language and cultural differences.

**Cultural Organizations Working to Fill Gaps**

There is a community of capable but under-resourced organizations providing arts programming in underserved communities and select arts organizations are working to diversify audiences and expand engagement, but progress is challenging.

**Public Desire for Cultural Equity**

Marin residents share a deep concern over the inequities that exist in their community: 85% placed a high importance on providing arts access to all residents and families and 80% on recognizing and supporting Marin’s diverse communities in the arts.

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**Role of the County in the Arts**

The MARIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL SERVICES manages the Marin Center, produces the County Fair, and provides select County programming, but the County historically has not provided leadership or support for the broader arts community. Current County net arts spending of $1.6 million focuses on the Marin Center, which is available for rental by nonprofit users of the Veterans’ Memorial Auditorium and Showcase Theater.

**Public Desire for County Arts Leadership**

A large majority of Marin residents (91%) say they would like to see the County provide financial support for the arts in their community. Currently, the County has no public art program and only a couple of cities within its borders have undertaken public art programs. Yet, there is strong interest in more visible public art throughout the County — permanent, temporary, and interactive — with 69% of survey respondents stating creating more public art is a priority.
Marin’s nonprofit arts and culture sector is a significant industry in Marin County — one that generated $76.4 million in total economic activity in 2018. This spending — $49.7 million by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and an additional $26.6 million in event-related spending by their audiences — supports 1,648 full-time equivalent jobs, generates $40.9 million in household income to local residents, and delivers $7.6 million in local and state government revenue. This economic impact study sends a strong signal that when we support the arts, we not only enhance our quality of life, but we also invest in Marin County’s economic well-being.
WHAT’S NEEDED...

ADDRESS SYSTEMIC ISSUES
in providing equitable access for all populations
to Marin’s arts and culture.

SUPPORT THE CONTINUED EVOLUTION
and excellence of Marin’s artistry
for all populations to Marin’s arts and culture.

FILL GAPS IN AVAILABLE CULTURAL RESOURCES,
including public art and creative placemaking.

IMPROVE THE SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE
for Marin’s arts and cultural community.

PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE ARTS FUNDING.

STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP FOR THE ARTS.
VISION FOR MARIN’S ARTS & CULTURAL FUTURE

VISION

Home to unrivaled natural beauty and a profound arts and cultural legacy, Marin County embodies the limitless power of the arts to benefit and build community for all of its people.

CORE VALUES

We believe in...

THE POWER OF THE ARTS
A vibrant, creative community fosters intellectual and emotional growth and innovation, promotes civic identity and engagement, and stimulates economic development and prosperity.

EQUITY & INCLUSION IN THE ARTS
Equitable access to an artful life enables every member of our community to explore and develop the unique, the beautiful, and the profound that lies within each of us.

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE & DIVERSITY
An engaged, creative community flourishes where bold artistic expression and diverse cultural traditions are promoted across a full spectrum of art forms and genres.

PUBLIC & PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE ARTS
Marin’s rich artistic identity, resources, and potential all need and deserve robust public and private investment to survive and thrive.

DEFINITION OF CULTURAL EQUITY

Cultural equity is the inclusion and fair representation of multiple diverse populations in outreach and in the allocation of funding, resources (e.g., facilities and fiscal), and programs, providing equitable and fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people, while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some communities.

Diversity includes all the ways in which people differ, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, geography, citizenship status, religion, language, physical appearance, and those aff iliating with multiple identities. Our definition also includes diversity of thought: ideas, perspectives, and values.

Access means giving all individuals and organizations in the community fair and just pathways to appreciate and be exposed to the arts as well as attain information, financial resources and opportunities to fulfill cultural and artistic expression and development.
ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! is a long-term master plan designed to fulfill the community’s vision and values for arts and culture. The plan includes three overarching and enduring goals, which reflect the major themes of the needs assessment and are unlikely to change during the course of implementation. They represent the “what” of the plan – the desired change. Goals are accompanied by strategies that represent the “how” – ways to accomplish the goals. Recommended actions, detailed in the full version of the plan, provide specific steps. It is expected the strategies and actions may shift, as circumstances change in the community and as new opportunities arise. ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! is very much intended as a framework or blueprint to be adapted to best accomplish the intentions of the plan.

1. GOAL: Cultivate and advance Marin as an arts and cultural center.
   1.1. Support the advancement of Marin’s artistic identity and programming.
   1.2. Promote public awareness of, participation in, and support for Marin’s arts and culture.
   1.3. Enhance the Marin Center as a countywide hub for arts and culture.
   1.4. Increase the production and availability of public art throughout the county.
   1.5. Assist Marin’s cities with arts development in their local communities.

2. GOAL: Ensure Marin’s arts are by and for everyone.
   2.1. Infuse cultural equity into all aspects of implementation of this plan.
   2.2. Support the efforts of Marin’s arts organizations to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion.
   2.3. Improve arts access and engagement for underserved youth and adults.
   2.4. Support equitable access to arts education in Marin’s public schools.

3. GOAL: Sustain and grow Marin’s arts resources.
   3.1. Provide needed services for Marin’s nonprofit arts community.
   3.2. Provide needed services for Marin’s individual artists.
   3.3. Address the space needs of Marin’s arts community.
   3.4. Increase available funding resources for Marin’s arts community.
WHERE DO WE START?

It is important to take action and demonstrate visible progress in the short term, in addition to starting work on more ambitious initiatives that may require years of effort. Community feedback on the draft plan validated its goals and strategies, and identified nearly all areas of the plan as a short- or long-term priority. In the coming months, the MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION along with community advisory teams will prepare implementation plans for the following starting points:

- **Services for artists and nonprofit arts organizations**: possibly including an online listing of available rehearsal, performance, studio and exhibit spaces; a “Craigslist for the Arts” online marketplace; and regular convenings for artists and arts lovers.

- **Equity throughout**: a diverse and inclusive “Arts Justice Team” (working title) will be formed to develop a cultural equity policy for Marin, and oversee the rigorous implementation of the equity goals and values articulated in the plan.

- **Arts network of cities in Marin County**: a “coalition of the willing,” this group of representatives of cities throughout the county will advance its own arts agenda, based on local needs and priorities. Likely topics will include public art, creative placemaking, and affordable arts spaces.

- **Advocacy**: given the importance of a revenue source for the arts, and the impediments to creating one, this effort will begin with realistic development of potential public and private funding options identified during this planning process. This will certainly require a future communitywide public advocacy and promotional campaign for Marin’s arts and arts education.

- **Marin Center as an artistic hub**: from its base in the Marin Center, MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION will spearhead and support the plan’s objectives. As part of the anticipated Marin Center renovations, the Association will pursue opportunities to transform the facility into the County’s center for artistic innovation, collaboration, education, and resources.

- **Artistic advancement**: this will begin with a facilitated process for Marin’s artistic directors, curators and leading artists to identify artistic strengths and opportunities for artistic evolution and investment within the County.
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN?

MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION is prepared to answer the community’s call for County arts leadership and to spearhead implementation of the plan, in partnership with the MARIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL SERVICES. The Association’s board of directors is beginning work on a strategic plan that will guide its effective assumption of this important responsibility. But MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION cannot build Marin’s creative future on its own – the community vision reflected in ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! can only be realized with the community’s ongoing participation, collaboration and support. In fulfilling the strategies and actions of the plan, there will be key roles for arts and cultural organizations, artists, philanthropists, the Board of Supervisors, municipal governments, educational stakeholders, and many others.

WHO WILL PROVIDE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY?

ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! was designed by this community to serve this community. The MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION will oversee implementation and provide regular, at least annual, report-backs to the community, as well as regular convenings for targeted interest groups.

WHERE WILL THE RESOURCES COME FROM TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN?

It will take a broad range of public and private funding and other resources to achieve the community goals expressed in the plan. County and municipal governments have a powerful stake in investing in these priorities. Charitable foundations have already demonstrated a willingness to support the development and realization of this plan. And there will be many opportunities for resource-sharing partnerships with agencies and organizations in the fields of education, social services, economic development, and of course, arts and culture.

IT STARTS AND ENDS WITH YOU!

Ultimately, ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! rests in the hands of the community who built it and for whom it was created. All who care about arts and culture in Marin will be responsible for supporting the plan and advocating for the many steps ahead. Leadership opportunities abound and all voices are welcome.
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**Introduction**

**Marin’s Path to a Cultural Plan**

**Benefits of the Arts**

**How We Did It**

**The Context for Planning**

- Current Conditions
- Economic Impact
- Marin County’s Arts Portfolio: Cultural Services Department
- Marin’s Cultural Assets
- Marin’s Arts Education Plan

**Appendices**

- Related Research Documents
- Planning Participants
Dear Friends,

I am pleased to introduce ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN!, a comprehensive cultural plan for Marin County. This is a plan that sees the arts and culture as a true cornerstone of Marin’s identity and pride.

As a long-time resident of southern Marin, I am keenly aware of the bounty of arts and culture that surrounds us. From live music of all kinds, “plein air” painting along our streets and open spaces, and dance in our schools and town squares, to poetry readings and literary events, we have a lively scene. That scene, and the artists and creative individuals who make it happen, are increasingly under pressure as the cost of living and housing in Marin steadily increases. To protect what we cherish and value, we were called to take action and begin a community-wide conversation about how best to support Marin’s identity as a home to arts and culture, and the people and organizations that make it happen.

In 2016, Gabriella Calicchio, Director of Cultural Services for Marin County, teamed up with Marin resident and arts activist, Tammy Edmonson, to explore the development of a cultural plan for Marin. With widespread community support and a Steering Committee of diverse community and business leaders, a countywide cultural planning effort was launched in September 2018. The inclusive, six-month process involved dozens of public planning forums, interviews, surveys, data collection and analysis. This effort has reconfirmed that arts and culture are critical components in shaping Marin’s identity, both enriching our lives and fueling our local economy. At the same time, the inquiry identified economic and organizational threats to the health of our creative sector and reminded us that the benefits of ready access to arts and culture remain out of reach for many Marin County residents.

As a member of the Steering Committee, I have been thrilled to see Marin residents show up and speak out in large numbers to advocate for creating a shared vision of Marin’s artistic future. I am proud of our community’s deep commitment to ensuring that the County’s artistic and cultural resources not only thrive but also benefit every resident, and willingness to embrace the challenge of securing the necessary financial support to achieve those goals.

ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! is an ambitious but achievable plan to address these challenges and to grow support and recognition for Marin arts and culture. I look forward to continuing this collaborative effort to ensure that all Marin residents, and the arts and culture community that sustains us, flourish now and in the future.

Best regards,

Kathrin Sears | President
MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PLANNING TEAM

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The arts represent a larger share of the nation’s economy — 4.2% of GDP — than transportation, tourism, and agriculture (source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis).

ARTS DRIVE TOURISM & REVENUE TO LOCAL BUSINESSES
Attendees at nonprofit arts events spend $31.47 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission on items such as meals, parking and babysitters — valuable commerce for local businesses. One-third come from outside the county in which the arts event takes place, and these visitors average $47.57 in event-related spending. Arts travelers are ideal tourists, staying longer and spending more to seek out authentic cultural experiences.

ARTS HAVE SOCIAL IMPACT
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA researchers have demonstrated that a high concentration of the arts in a city leads to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, higher child welfare, and lower poverty rates.

ARTS SPARK CREATIVITY & INNOVATION
Creativity is among the top five applied skills sought by business leaders, per the Conference Board’s Ready to Innovate report — with 72% saying creativity is of high importance when hiring.

ARTS UNIFY COMMUNITIES
67% of Americans believe “the arts unify our communities regardless of age, race, and ethnicity” and 62% agree that “the arts help me understand other cultures better” — a perspective observed across all demographic and economic categories.

ARTS IMPROVE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs, standardized test scores, and attendance, and lower drop-out rates. These academic benefits are reaped by students regardless of socio-economic status. Yet, the US Department of Education reports that access to arts education for students of color is significantly lower than for their white peers.

ARTS IMPROVE HEALTHCARE
Nearly one-half of the nation’s healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and even staff. 78% deliver those programs because of their healing benefits to patients — shorter hospital stays, better pain management, less medication, shorter recuperation time, and reduced depression.

¹ Source: Adapted from TEN REASONS TO SUPPORT THE ARTS, AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS, 2018, https://blog.americansforthearts.org/2018/03/09/ten-reasons-to-support-the-arts-in-2018
ABILITY
EXPERIENCE
DEVELOPMENT
REFLECTION
Community Engagement

- 5 Steering Committee meetings
- 5 District Forums, one in each supervisory district
- 21 Discussion Groups
- 28 Stakeholder Interviews
- 125 at Launch Event
- 791 Open Online Community-wide Survey
- 400 Statistically Valid Telephone Survey
The planning process launched with an event on September 6, 2018 at the Marin Center. Over 125 people attended the event, a clear indication of the importance of this plan to community leaders, artists, and arts organizations. It continued with numerous civic engagement events and activities seeking to hear the voices of Marin residents.

The central questions asked were:

- What is the current state of arts and culture in Marin?
- What do residents want the future to be?
- How do we get there?

The planning methodology, designed to answer these questions and many others, is based on a triangulation approach, using qualitative and quantitative methodologies, subject matter experts, and secondary data sources. This method provides a more holistic view of the issues. The following is a brief summary of the reach into the community. A full engagement report and additional research is available in the appendix.
MARIN’S CURRENT CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

From the bayside estuaries to the wild ocean beaches, Marin encompasses a collection of large and small communities nestled among abundant forests, parklands and open spaces. Artists and adventurers are powerfully drawn to create and explore amid this natural bounty. Accordingly, the County has historically enjoyed a rich artistic presence. Currently, that includes about 1,750 arts businesses and nonprofits, and a full spectrum of performing, visual, literary, digital, and other creative artists. Marin’s resident artists include many national and international icons in their fields, though the great majority of working artists in the County are lesser known.

Locals take great pride and enjoyment in the County’s artistic richness. The community survey demonstrates that over 90% of Marin residents consider the arts to be important to their own lives and to the Marin community. And yet, few residents — or visitors for that matter — have any idea of the true size, scope and quality of Marin’s arts sector. This is due, at least in part, to the absence of coordinated marketing and promotion of the sector. The County itself, and its large and growing tourist industry, have tended to focus their branding and marketing efforts on Marin’s environmental resources and recreational opportunities, and not the richness of its creative sector. The community’s limited awareness of arts opportunities contributes to the difficulty artists and arts organizations face in attracting needed audiences, patrons and supporters.

The Marin arts audience includes many sophisticated attendees, with access to and experience with the arts in the Bay Area and other cultural capitals. The County’s arts sector offers a fair amount of programming of national or international stature, innovation, and contemporary interest. Still, a large number of residents (48%) say they go outside of Marin County for a majority of their arts, cultural and creative events and activities. In addition to the lack of information and the lure of other Bay Area arts offerings, distance and geography play a role in inhibiting local arts participation; many residents live in widely-dispersed smaller communities with limited public transportation.

Arts organizations struggling to sustain their programming in the face of declining audiences at times fall back on “safe” programming geared toward Marin’s majority, white, affluent and aging population, and toward more conventional interests and tastes. In turn, this inhibits participation by the County’s younger and more diverse populations, contributing to a growing perception that Marin’s artistic offering is mainstream and the County’s artistic identity is either unknown or unremarkable.

The County’s ever-increasing affluence and attendant high cost of living,\(^2\) further diminish...

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\(^2\) The median value of owned housing is just over $900,000 and the median rent is roughly $1,800.
the diversity of the community and of the creative environment. Artists and innovators are leaving the County to pursue art in a more affordable and conducive environment.

The open community survey revealed artists’ top needs for sustaining their careers within the County are (1) more exhibition, performance, and sales/work opportunities in Marin, (2) affordable work space and/or live/work space, (3) more networking and connection opportunities with other Marin County artists, (4) professional development assistance, and (5) opportunities for leadership in the community (e.g., serving on boards or committees, advising organizations, working in social practice).

The lack of affordable performance and exhibit space is a leading concern for arts organizations as well. A few organizations own their own facilities. For other nonprofits, the Veterans’ Memorial Auditorium provides subsidized rentals, but these rates remain beyond the reach of many, and availability of spaces suitable for specific performing and exhibition needs is limited.

The high cost to artists and arts organizations remaining in Marin is more difficult to bear due to insufficient and declining arts funding, and a lack of coordinated arts leadership in the County. These issues are addressed under “County Leadership and Support for the Arts,” below.
COMMUNITY ACCESS TO ARTS

Considerable inequities exist for Marin’s diverse populations, including low income communities, indigenous peoples, and people of color. The gap between whites and people of color in Marin is greater than in any other California county across a range of measures, including economic opportunity, housing, crime and justice, health access, education, democracy, and a healthy built environment.³

Areas of particular concern include: inequities in arts education, both in and out of school; the fact that available arts offerings do not adequately reflect or serve the County’s diverse populations; and the disparate burden borne by poor and minority communities from the shortage of arts funding, and of performance and exhibit space. These underserved residents are concentrated in geographically isolated areas with limited transportation to most arts venues and events. Many face added hurdles of language and cultural differences. There is a community of capable but under-resourced organizations providing arts programming in underserved communities and select arts organizations are working to diversify audiences and expand engagement, but progress is challenging.

Arts education is widely disparate in the County’s 18 school districts. Where available, it is often funded and provided by private organizations, not the districts. There are no visual and performing arts (VAPA) coordinators on staff in Marin school districts, a key element of providing quality arts education that is accessible to all.

The community survey confirmed what was evident in the community forums: Marin residents share a deep concern over the inequities that exist in their community. 85% of respondents placed a high importance on providing arts access to all residents and families; and 80% placed a high importance on recognizing and supporting Marin’s diverse communities in the arts.

COUNTY LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS

The current countywide general plan (2007) includes a range of goals for arts and culture, demonstrating the importance of the arts sector to the County vision. These goals and their supporting policies touch on some of the same issues that emerged in this planning process: increasing support for local artists and arts organizations, expanding
THE CONTEXT FOR PLANNING

Of these goals, only the third — enhancing the Marin Center (Goal Art-3) — appears to have been assigned to a responsible government agency (the Department of Cultural Services) and to have advanced meaningfully in the past decade.

The Department of Cultural Services manages the Marin Center, produces the County Fair, and provides select County programming, but historically has not provided leadership or support for the broader arts community. Current County arts spending of $1.6 million focuses on the Marin Center, which is available for rental by nonprofit (and other) users of the Veterans’ Memorial Auditorium and Showcase Theater. The County also directs a small amount of its Community Grants (approximately $35,000 per year) to arts organizations. Beyond this, the County historically has left arts nonprofits, individual artists and creatives to their own devices.

Except for the County supported Marin Center, Marin’s creative sector faces a distinct shortage of institutional funding from foundations and corporations as well as from local government. In 2010 the MARIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION eliminated its discretionary arts giving program and refocused on grants for education and social justice, some of which go to arts organizations. This represented a structural change in funding for many arts organizations, including the Marin Arts Council, which had relied on annual Marin Community Foundation grants to sustain itself and its own program of grants to local arts organizations.

Loss of these funds led the Council to dissolve in 2012. While individual giving remains strong, Marin’s arts community continues to struggle to adapt to the new funding environment.

A large majority of Marin residents say they would like to see the County provide financial support for the arts in their community. While few are fully aware of the County’s role in supporting arts at the Marin Center, ninety-one percent (91%) of survey respondent believe it is important that Marin County government financially support quality of life initiatives such as arts, cultural and creative activities in Marin County. Arts education, equitable access to the arts for all, and youth programming outside of school are among the community’s top priorities for arts investment.

Currently, the County has no public art program and only a couple of cities within its borders have undertaken public art programs. Yet, there is strong interest in more visible public art throughout the County — permanent, temporary, and interactive — with 69% of survey respondents stating creating more public art is a priority.

In conclusion, Marin’s cultural heritage and active arts ecosystem, while abounding with arts organizations and artists, faces significant systemic challenges to its preservation and future development. This plan continues the dialogue with the community about how Marin grows and changes and preserves all that is treasured.

1 www.racecounts.org/county/marin.

2 Some Marin arts organizations receive funding from the California Arts Council and/or the National Endowment for the Arts, but this represents only a small percentage of total arts budgets.
Marin’s nonprofit arts and culture sector is a significant industry in Marin County — one that generated $76.4 million in total economic activity in 2018. This spending — $49.7 million by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and an additional $26.6 million in event-related spending by their audiences — supports 1,648 full-time equivalent jobs, generates $40.9 million in household income to local residents, and delivers $7.6 million in local and state government revenue. This economic impact study sends a strong signal that when we support the arts, we not only enhance our quality of life, but we also invest in Marin County’s economic well-being.

This study is part of AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS national “Arts and Economic Prosperity 5” (AEP5) study. AEP5 is the fifth such measurement of the nonprofit arts and culture industry’s impact on the economy over the past 20 years. This most recent version documents the economic contributions of the arts in 341 diverse communities and regions across the country, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, the nonprofit arts and culture industry generated $166.3 billion of economic activity during 2015 — $63.8 billion in spending by arts and cultural organizations and an additional $102.5 billion in event-related expenditures by their audiences. This activity supported 4.6 million jobs and generated $27.5 billion in revenue to local, state, and federal governments (a yield well beyond their collective $5 billion in arts allocations). By every measure, the results are impressive. This study puts to rest a misconception that communities support arts and culture at the expense of local economic development. In fact, communities are investing in an industry that supports jobs, generates government revenue, and is the cornerstone of tourism. Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 shows conclusively that, locally as well as nationally, the arts mean business!
MARIN COUNTY’S ARTS PORTFOLIO: CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

An overview of the County’s arts programs, facilities and investments.

TOTAL ANNUAL ARTS SPENDING $1.6 million Marin Center subsidy $35,000 in Community Grants to arts organizations (2018)

MARIN CENTER

- Veterans’ Memorial Auditorium
- Fairgrounds
- Lagoon Park
- Children’s Island
- Showcase Theater
- Exhibit Hall
- Meeting Rooms
- Bartolini Gallery

PROGRAMMING

- County Fair
- Rentals
- Presenting
- Art Exhibits in Bartolini Gallery
- Art Exhibits in the Redwood Foyer
- Art Exhibits on the 1st & 3rd Floor of the Civic Center
- Frank Lloyd Wright Docent Tours
THE CONTEXT FOR PLANNING

MOUNTAIN PLAY
Marin is home to an extraordinary proliferation of arts and cultural assets. They come in many forms – nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, arts-centric businesses in the creative industries, unincorporated cultural groups, individual artists, creative professionals, venues, studios, theaters, events and more. ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! is the first comprehensive look at this collection. Yet this is only the beginning of a census and portrait of Marin’s cultural ecosystem. The lists and maps compiled for the plan each invite the community to identify and add what’s missing, and to join what can become a powerful new communications platform for the creative sector.

The overarching observation is that there are more cultural assets than even well-informed arts stakeholders imagined. The list of creative businesses, including nonprofits, numbers about 1,750 and is found throughout the entire geography of the County. This is a conservative counting, based on a narrow definition of creative businesses compiled by AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS. It includes arts-centric businesses that range from nonprofit museums, theaters, and visual arts venues to for-profit film, architecture, and advertising companies. To guard against overstatement of the sector, the list excludes industries often included in creative economy lists, such as computer programming and scientific research — both creative, but not focused on the arts.
Focusing just on the nonprofit arts and cultural community, Marin has a total of at least 162 organizations, again found in locations throughout the county. A few are headquartered elsewhere but have a strong presence in Marin. They include a remarkable variety of missions and artistic disciplines. Note that many of these organizations provide programming in multiple locations, so their community presence and impact is greater than the “point maps” suggest.
As part of the planning process, Marin’s artists were invited to provide information on their artistic practices, vision and needs. The following map includes the locations for about 125 artists who have so far responded to this call. Artists wishing to join this listing and map can do so at Marin Artist Mapping Inquiry (marincultural.org).
MARIN NONPROFIT ARTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS | 162 TOTAL

23 ELEPHANTS THEATRE COMPANY
ALI AKBAR COLLEGE OF MUSIC
ALTER THEATER ENSEMBLE
AMERICAN CITIZENS THEATRE
ANGEL ISLAND CONSERVANCY
ANTENNA THEATER
ARQUES MARITIME PRESERVATION FOUNDATION
ART JEWELRY FORUM
ART WORKS DOWNTOWN INC
BALLET AFSANEH ART AND CULTURE SOCIETY
BAULINES CRAFT GUILD
BAY AREA DISCOVERY MUSEUM
BAY AREA SUMMER OPERA THEATER INSTITUTE
BELROSE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
BELVEDERE-TIBURON LANDMARKS SOCIETY
BLACK MOUNTAIN CIRCLE
BOLINAS MUSEUM
BREAD AND ROSES BENEFIT AGENCY
CALIFORNIA FILM INSTITUTE
CALIFORNIA POETS IN THE SCHOOL
CEDARS
CENTER FOR CHILDHOOD CREATIVITY, BAY AREA DISCOVERY MUSEUM
CENTER FOR DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY
CHAUCER THEATER
CHILDREN'S THEATER ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO
CHITRESH DAS INSTITUTE
CINEFEMME
COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY ACTION MARIN
COMMUNITY ITP INC
COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER OF MARIN
CONSERVATORY THEATER ENSEMBLE-TAM HIGH
CORTE MADERA TOWN BAND
CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL MEDIA
CURTAIN THEATER
DANCE PALACE
DEBORAH SLATER DANCE THEATER
DRAWBRIDGE
ECHO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH MUSIC
FAIRFAX THEATRE COMPANY
FIBERSHED
FREUNDSCHAFT LIEDERKRANZ
FRIENDS OF THE DAVIDSON MUSIC FOUNDATION
FUTURE EDUCATIONAL FILMS
GALLERY ROUTE ONE
GERMAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF MARIN
GOLDEN GATE OPERA
GREEN PLANET FILMS INC
HEADLANDS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
IAM THEATRE COMPANY
ICB ARTISTS ASSOCIATION
ILLUMINATE THE ARTS
INSTITUTE FOR ART AND LIVING
IT HISTORY SOCIETY
JERRY GARCIA FOUNDATION
JOSEPH CAMPBELL FOUNDATION
KANBAR CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
KENTFIELD-GREENBRAE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
KIDDO!
KWMR
LARK THEATER
LET IT RIPPLE INC
LISS FAIN DANCE
LUSITANIA BAND OF NORTH BAY
MANDALA TRANSFORMATION FOUNDATION
MARIN ART AND GARDEN CENTER
MARIN BALLET
MARIN BAROQUE CHAMBER CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA
MARIN CHINESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION INC
MARIN COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL
MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY
MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
MARIN DANCE THEATER
MARIN GIRLS CHORUS
MARIN HISTORY MUSEUM
MARIN MEDIA INSTITUTE
MARIN MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
MARIN MUSIC CHEST
MARIN MUSIC CONSERVATORY
MARIN MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY
MARIN NEEDLE ARTS GUILD INC
MARIN OPEN STUDIOS
MARIN POETRY CENTER
MARIN SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
MARIN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
MARIN SOCIETY OF ARTISTS
MARIN STABLES & TRAILS INC
MARIN SUMMER THEATER
MARIN SYMPHONY
MARIN THEATRE COMPANY
MARINARTS
MARITIME RADIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MAYFLOWER CHORAL SOCIETY
MILL VALLEY CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY
MILL VALLEY FALL ARTS FESTIVAL
MILL VALLEY LIBRARY
MILL VALLEY PHILHARMONIC
MARIN’S ARTS EDUCATION PLAN

Art, Every Student, Every School

Marin is fortunate to have a countywide plan for arts education, a collaborative effort supported by recent data analysis. Completed in 2018, the MARIN ARTS EDUCATION PLAN informs the arts education recommendations of this plan and is incorporated by reference into it (see Appendix). The Marin County Office of Education is the lead agency for implementation of this plan. This section presents a brief summary of the MARIN ARTS EDUCATION PLAN.

Belief, Mission and Vision Statements

Belief: If every student in Marin County is provided a well-rounded arts education experience, then the students will have the imagination and analytic skills to address the challenges they will face as members in a global workforce.

Mission: Each and every student in Marin will have access to quality arts education.

Vision: Each Marin school district is supported in building leadership and instructional capacity to intentionally deliver both discrete and integrated arts instruction, equitably focused on supporting the unique needs of our diverse student population.

Background

The ARTSEDVISION MARIN STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP was established in 2015 to develop a plan to support the vision that every student in the county would receive a quality education that includes the arts. The team expanded beginning in 2016 into the ARTS EDUCATION PLANNING TEAM including a cross-section of the community’s teachers, teaching
artists, school administrators, community-based organizations, parents and community members. During this process, the MARIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION, with funding from the MARIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, researched the landscape of arts education programs throughout the county. That information is available on a public website and will be updated annually. http://www.marin.artsedvision.org/

The plan was informed by these contextual factors:

- Marin has 18 school districts serving urban, peri-urban, and rural students. None have visual or performing arts (VAPA) coordinators, and some schools have no arts instruction.
- The vision of arts learning is evolving.
- There is currently a shortage of credentialed arts specialists statewide.
- Most teacher credentialing programs do not include distinct arts and arts integration courses.
- In California, Marin County has the second highest number of resident artists per capita, second only to Los Angeles.

The Arts Education Plan

In order to enhance preK-12 arts education throughout Marin County schools, the Marin County Office of Education will partner with organizations to support implementation of the following strategic goals and objectives:

1. Educational Support Goal: Support relevant, rigorous, quality arts education for every student in Marin County, including social emotional learning, academic and overall success.

   1.1. Support and share the adoption of the Countywide Arts Education Plan

   1.2. Provide support to Districts in curriculum instruction, assessment and professional development.

   1.3. Support district-level arts education planning.

   1.4. Explore best practices for equal access to a quality arts education for students within all districts.

2. Community Support Goal: Build and support strategic partnerships providing a network for arts education programs and opportunities that showcase and engage students in culturally and linguistically relevant arts in preK-12th grade and beyond.

   2.1. Develop and sustain partnerships (e.g., arts organizations, school districts, community stakeholders, PTAs, etc.)

3. Sustainability Goal: Collaboratively build a sustainable network of potential funding sources that can address issues of equity.

   3.1. Share resources with district leadership around potential uses of funding to support arts education.

   3.2. Explore a pooled funding source for arts education.
MARIN HIGHLY VALUES ARTS AND CULTURE and has an enviable artistic community and heritage. Yet Marin’s artistic abundance is not shared with everyone and the creative sector faces significant challenges to its sustainability and ability to serve the community. A clear set of needs, as well as opportunities, emerged from the planning process and the current conditions analysis forming the basis for this plan.

What’s needed...

Address systemic issues in providing equitable access for all populations to Marin’s arts and culture.

Marin has a vibrant arts and cultural ecosystem but not everyone has access to the experiences and learning they seek. Both the public and Marin County government share a commitment to addressing this inequity. Residents’ two highest cultural priorities are access for everyone to arts and cultural opportunities and celebrating and supporting Marin’s cultural diversity. County government has been extending its commitment to equity in multiple ways in recent years.

A primary need across the county is for equitable access to arts education for children and youth. Because there are multiple school districts and decisions are locally controlled, this suggests a coordinated approach to promoting arts education and assisting districts to implement visual and performing arts standards. There are also opportunities to better connect youth with existing arts programs in the community, and to address barriers of transportation, cost, and language. For some people of color and low-income communities, access also means removing barriers. Diversifying audiences and engagement will require systemic change for arts organizations. They will in turn need support to undertake or enhance their efforts. Challenges include diversifying staff and leadership, providing culturally relevant programming, and helping new audience members feel welcome.

Some existing arts organizations in Marin are already focused on arts inclusion. This presents an opportunity to develop and foster a more effective “community of practice” in communication and collaboration with these providers.

The arts are a cross-cultural bridge and many people identified the opportunity to use the arts as a way to celebrate Marin’s diversity and to promote cultural expression by artists and communities who are now less visible.

Some community members expressed frustration at the slow pace of change in race, equity and access. There is a need to “walk the talk” of diversity and inclusion in the arts, and to go beyond policy to action, building on relationships and understanding generated through the planning process. There are opportunities to be inclusive in leadership and decision-making in the implementation of this plan, and to provide ongoing forums for dialogue about equity in the arts.
Support the continued evolution and excellence of Marin’s artistry.

Marin’s artistry includes a long tradition and current practice of excellence, innovation, and experimentation in multiple disciplines. Yet Marin is not well recognized as an arts place or destination. Marin’s arts audience includes many sophisticated arts consumers, who have many alternatives for their attendance in the Bay Area and beyond. While it is not possible nor desirable to engineer the artistry of a community, there is a need to support the evolution of Marin’s artistic programming and identity, and to specifically support art work. The opportunity is to better empower Marin’s artistic leaders to assess the community’s artistic identity and to create ways of exploring, innovating and enlivening it, beyond what now exists. In line with creating equitable access to Marin’s arts and culture, there is a need to promote greater diversity of cultural expressions. This will require funding and other support for initiatives that arise from this dialogue.

There is an opportunity to better incorporate arts and culture within Marin’s brand and to identify ways to connect them with other well-known characteristics of Marin – the natural environment, outdoor activities, environmentalism, and agriculture. There is a corresponding need to promote this multifaceted cultural identity to a broad public.

Fill gaps in available cultural resources, including public art and creative placemaking.

Marin’s cultural resources are concentrated primarily in its collection of nonprofit organizations, individual artists, and creative businesses. There are gaps in, and public calls for, other cultural amenities. Specifically, County government has no public art program and few of Marin’s municipalities have public art ordinances. Yet the community expresses a strong desire for public art and for art to be more visible in everyday life.

Similarly, planning participants value places in their communities made vibrant by the presence of the arts and artists, creative businesses, public art, creative programming and events, and many other expressions of cultural vitality. Collectively termed creative placemaking, this approach to enlivening a community makes places desirable and “sticky” by creating gathering places, safer areas, recognizable symbols for a community, and increased revenues for businesses. Younger people in particular cite a blandness in many local places in Marin and would like to see more interesting places to gather and connect.

Because many communities in Marin are under the jurisdiction of cities and other municipalities, the opportunity is to facilitate and incentivize these local jurisdictions to pursue goals for their own arts and cultural development.

Improve the support infrastructure for Marin’s arts and cultural community.

Arts communities require sophisticated support systems to enable them to effectively serve the community at large. Yet some functions are beyond the individual capabilities of organizations and artists. Raising the visibility of the arts, improving the funding environment, advocating for the sector, overcoming societal barriers – all are by nature communitywide or systemic needs.

Perhaps the most frequent need cited by Marin’s artists and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations is for better and ongoing communication within the
arts community. They seek opportunities to connect, stay informed about one another and the arts community, to identify collaborations, and to learn about resources and opportunities.

Arts organizations have needs for capacity building assistance in diversifying audiences, marketing, professional development for staff and boards. Individual artists cite needs for professional development – tools that can assist them to be visible, find work opportunities, market their work, and learn new business and career skills. Both organizations and artists articulated the need to address the challenges of Marin’s high real estate values. The cost of securing space is an escalating problem that demands leadership and policy responses.

While there are existing marketing channels for the arts, more effective marketing and promotion, beyond the efforts of individual organizations and artists, will better fulfill goals for audience expansion and diversification.

While the arts are valued in the County, they are not always a part of policy decisions. Coordinated advocacy in the political, funding, educational and other policy arenas, directed at shared communitywide priorities, such as arts education and sustainable funding, will elevate the awareness of the value of the arts.

Provide sustainable arts funding.

Given the structural challenges in arts funding in Marin, addressing the funding ecosystem in a way that sustains the arts community will better enable it to fulfill the community’s vision for arts and quality of life. Arts organizations have a legitimate need for increased support. In addition to the loss of most of the MARIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION arts funding, there are few other institutional sources, while the cost of operations is increasing. More money is not the whole solution, but it is a critical part of increasing sustainability for the nonprofit arts community. Individual artists have still fewer grant sources than organizations. Artists express their need for resources primarily in terms of increased work opportunities, channels to sell work, and affordable spaces.

There are opportunities to create sustainable funding through the creation of new sources of public and private support, generated around the shared priorities of this plan. These include increased financial support from County government, advocating for more public arts support from cities and municipalities, and convening private arts funders to support arts initiatives. Marin residents want to see more funding for the arts, with 78% of residents supporting an annual quality of life tax supporting arts and cultural education and activities.

Strengthen leadership for the arts.

Leadership is an essential element of any community and Marin’s arts community benefits from strong leadership in its individual arts organizations. However, there was a consistent call for new leadership for the whole of Marin’s arts and cultural sector, often termed an “arts hub” or an “arts council.” This leadership organization should be a convener and a resource for the Marin arts community. It should address communitywide and systemic needs, serve organizations as well as artists, and encompass all artistic disciplines.

A majority of Marin’s residents favor the Marin Center as an arts hub for the county. The MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (MCA) and MARIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL SERVICES – both housed at the Marin Center – are the organizations that led development of this plan. Each currently plays a role in arts leadership but neither are well known or understood by the community. There is a need to clarify the role of the County and MCA in relation to the desire for an “arts hub,” and to communicate that role to the public.
VISION FOR MARIN’S ARTS & CULTURAL FUTURE

VISION

Home to unrivaled natural beauty and a profound arts and cultural legacy, Marin County embodies the limitless power of the arts to benefit and build community.

CORE VALUES

We believe in...

THE POWER OF THE ARTS
A vibrant creative community fosters intellectual and emotional growth and innovation, promotes civic identity and engagement, and stimulates economic development and prosperity.

EQUITY & INCLUSION IN THE ARTS
Equitable access to an artful life enables every member of our community to explore and develop the unique, the beautiful, and the profound that lies within each of us.

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE & DIVERSITY
An engaged, creative community flourishes where bold artistic expression and diverse cultural traditions are promoted across a full spectrum of art forms and genres.

PUBLIC & PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE ARTS
Marin’s rich artistic identity, resources, and potential all need and deserve robust public and private investment to survive and thrive.

MARIN BRIGHT LIGHTS

Downtown San Rafael Arts District

Selected as one of the first, highly-competitive California Arts Council cultural districts, the new Downtown San Rafael Arts District highlights and enlivens its unique sense of place with its anchor partners, programs, and events. The District’s anchor partners include Art Works Downtown, the California Film Institute, Youth in Arts, the City of San Rafael’s Falkirk Cultural Center, and the Downtown San Rafael Business Improvement District.
**DEFINITIONS**

**Cultural equity** is the inclusion and fair representation of multiple diverse populations in outreach and in the allocation of funding, resources (e.g., facilities and fiscal), and programs, providing equitable and fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people, while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some communities.

**Diversity** includes all the ways in which people differ, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, geography, citizenship status, religion, language, physical appearance, and those affiliating with multiple identities. Our definition also includes diversity of thought: ideas, perspectives, and values.

**Access** means giving all individuals and organizations in the community fair and just pathways to appreciate and be exposed to the arts, as well as attain information, financial resources and opportunities to fulfill cultural and artistic expression and development.

**MARIN COUNTY’S COMMITMENT TO EQUITY**

Marin County has made a commitment to equity in multiple forms in recent years. For example, the first focus area of the County’s 2015 Five-Year Business Plan is equity and inclusion among employees and throughout the County’s human resources policies and practices. In December 2016, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution on equity and inclusion in response to growing national concerns about human rights:

“The County of Marin rejects the politics of division, bigotry, hate and fear…. We will fight for the rights, freedoms and interests of all members of our community.”

In 2017, the board adopted a RACIAL EQUITY ACTION PLAN created through a planning process led by the GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON RACE AND EQUITY (GARE), one of California’s first counties to develop such a plan. In 2018, the County created and began recruiting for a new position of Equity Officer to oversee the County’s efforts to improve racial equity.

ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN!’s commitment to cultural equity is in alignment with, and will help to implement, the County’s values and policies.
ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! is a long-term master plan designed to fulfill the community’s vision and values for arts and culture. The plan includes three overarching and enduring goals, which reflect the major themes of the needs assessment and are unlikely to change during the course of implementation. They represent the “what” of the plan – the desired change. Goals are accompanied by strategies that represent the “how” – ways to accomplish the goals. Recommended actions provide specific action steps to pursue the strategies. It is expected the strategies and actions may shift, as circumstances change in the community and as new opportunities arise. ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! is very much intended as a framework or blueprint to be adapted to best accomplish the intentions of the plan.

**GOAL: Cultivate and advance Marin as an arts and cultural center.**

1. Support the advancement of Marin’s artistic identity and programming.
2. Promote public awareness of, participation in, and support for Marin’s arts and culture.
3. Enhance the Marin Center as a countywide hub for arts and culture.
4. Increase the production and availability of public art throughout the county.
5. Assist Marin’s cities with arts development in their local communities.

**GOAL: Ensure Marin’s arts are by and for everyone.**

1. Infuse cultural equity into all aspects of implementation of this plan.
2. Support the efforts of Marin’s arts organizations to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion.
3. Improve arts access and engagement for underserved youth and adults.
4. Support equitable access to arts education in Marin’s public schools.

**GOAL: Sustain and grow Marin’s arts resources.**

1. Provide needed services for Marin’s nonprofit arts community.
2. Provide needed services for Marin’s individual artists.
3. Address the space needs of Marin’s arts community.
4. Increase available funding resources for Marin’s arts community.
GOALS, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

1. GOAL: Cultivate and advance Marin as an arts and cultural center.

1.1. Support the advancement of Marin’s artistic identity and programming.
   1.1.1. Convene Marin's artistic leaders, such as artistic directors, curators, and artists, to consider Marin’s current artistic strengths and identity, and identify ways to advance its excellence, innovation, and/or civic practice. Consider ways to define and cultivate Marin’s artistic identity as distinct from other places – what makes Marin unique or compelling.
   1.1.2. Fund and support excellence, experimentation, and civic practice in programming by Marin’s arts organizations and artists.

1.2. Promote public awareness of, participation in, and support for Marin’s arts and culture.
   1.2.1. Create an advocacy and awareness program drawing on the CREATE CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN, intended to support arts education, awareness of and support for Marin arts and culture, and/or establishment of a dedicated arts funding source.
   1.2.2. Expand and diversify Marin’s arts audience. Enhance support and tools for arts organizations and artists to engage new audiences, including inclusion of communities not currently well represented in those organizations.
   1.2.3. Partner with County government and leaders in the tourism industry to raise the profile and importance of arts and culture as part of the county’s brand. Identify ways to align arts and culture with the county’s current focus on the natural environment and agriculture.

1.3. Enhance the Marin Center as a countywide hub for arts and culture.
   1.3.1. Utilize upcoming improvements to the Veterans’ Memorial Auditorium, Exhibit Hall, Showcase Theater, and fairgrounds as a means to strengthen the Marin Center as a central, multi-faceted hub for arts and culture. Identify ways to expand services and programming at the Center. Identify ways to use Center facilities and space as an incubator for artistic experimentation and innovation.
   1.3.2. Identify opportunities to base the programs and activities of MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION at the Marin Center, reinforcing its position and use as a countywide “hub” for arts support.

1.4. Increase the production and availability of public art throughout the county.
   1.4.1. Create a County public art program based on a percent of public capital improvement budgets.
   1.4.2. In consultation with the development community, create a County private development fee for the arts on all permits over an established dollar threshold.

1.4.3. Convene cities in Marin County to explore and support development of public art programs in local municipalities (see also recommendation 1.5.1.).

1.5. Assist Marin’s cities with arts development in their local communities.
   1.5.1. Develop an arts network of Marin municipalities as a forum for them to self-identify and address their arts-related issues such as creative placemaking, public art, youth arts, arts commissions, etc.
2. GOAL: Ensure Marin’s arts are by and for everyone.

2.1. Infuse cultural equity into all aspects of implementation of this plan.

2.1.1. Implement the cultural equity policy recommended in 2.2.1. in the other recommendations of this plan. Identify ways to incorporate and adapt the policy within MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION initiatives and programs and encourage its use by partner agencies.

2.2. Support the efforts of Marin’s arts organizations to improve diversity, equity and inclusion.

2.2.1. Develop a model cultural equity policy for adoption by the MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION BOARD, COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, and arts organizations.

2.2.2. Develop one or more “community boards” representing specific communities to advise the MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION BOARD on policy and programming opportunities that promote greater equity through the arts.

2.2.3. Provide training, technical assistance and convening [a peer learning ‘community of practice’] to Marin’s arts organizations seeking to increase inclusion in their organizations.

2.3. Improve arts access and engagement for underserved youth and adults

2.3.1. Create a countywide arts access program for Marin’s children and youth, addressing barriers of cost, transportation, language and culture. Consider partnering with BAY AREA CATS (community access ticket service: http://www.communitytickets.org/).

2.3.2. Create a countywide culture pass for Marin’s low income families, in partnership with arts organizations and venues.

2.4. Support equitable access to arts education in Marin’s public schools

2.4.1. Support implementation of the countywide Marin Arts Education Plan by the Marin County Office of Education and its partners.

2.4.2. Advocate for arts education as part of the advocacy and awareness program recommended in 1.2.1.

3. GOAL: Sustain and grow Marin’s arts resources.

3.1. Provide needed services for Marin’s nonprofit arts community.

3.1.1. Develop a series of convening programs for Marin’s nonprofit arts organizations, focused on specific interests, such as cultural equity, artistic identity, audience development, and/or space needs. Where possible, identify shared needs that can be addressed collaboratively or collectively, and consider ways to fund shared solutions.

3.1.2. Develop information resources for Marin’s nonprofit arts organizations, such as funding opportunities, employment listings, and other relevant information/opportunities.

3.2. Provide needed services for Marin’s individual artists.

3.2.1. Develop a series of convening programs for Marin’s individual artists, focused on specific interests, such as networking, building markets, artistic identity, and/or space needs. Where
possible, identify shared needs that can be addressed collaboratively or collectively, and consider ways to fund shared solutions.

3.2.2. Develop information resources for Marin’s individual artists, such as work opportunities, funding opportunities, shared tools, materials exchange, etc.

3.2.3. Develop an artist residency program within County and City governments, focused on civic practice. Allow for experimentation in the roles artists take within an agency or initiative.

3.3. Address the space needs of Marin’s arts community.

3.3.1. Develop a program to support development of cultural facilities, artists live/work, and/or other arts spaces in Marin. Provide matching grants for technical assistance/consulting services in the preplanning and feasibility stages of facilities development.

3.3.2. Provide matching grants to endorse and incentivize viable cultural facility projects, broadly defined, to increase the availability of affordable facilities and spaces that meet Marin’s needs for the arts.

3.4. Increase available funding resources for Marin’s arts community.

3.4.1. Create a new arts funding program for arts organizations and artists, administered by MCA.

3.4.2. Develop a campaign to create a designated public revenue source for the arts, such as a property tax or cannabis tax. Explore partnerships with related sectors in support of the initiative, such as education, libraries, and environmental stewardship.

3.4.3. Explore creation of an arts endowment to be funded by both public and private sources. The endowment can be created and augmented by private philanthropy, individuals, county and city governments, corporations, businesses, one-time funds (such as state and federal funds), and other sources. The fund can be used to address communitywide needs such as increased arts giving, arts education, cultural equity, advancement of artistic work, facilities, and other issues of shared and compelling purpose.
WHERE DO WE START?

It is important to take action and demonstrate visible progress in the short term, in addition to starting work on more ambitious initiatives that may require years of effort. Community feedback on the draft plan validated its goals and strategies, and identified nearly all areas of the plan as a short- or long-term priority. In the coming months, the MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION along with community advisory teams will prepare implementation plans for the following starting points:

• **Services for artists and nonprofit arts organizations**: possibly including an online listing of available rehearsal, performance, studio and exhibit spaces; a “Craigslist for the Arts” online marketplace; and regular convenings for artists and arts lovers.

• **Equity throughout**: a diverse and inclusive “Arts Justice Team” (working title) will be formed to develop a cultural equity policy for Marin, and oversee the rigorous implementation of the equity goals and values articulated in the plan.

• **Arts network of cities in Marin County**: a “coalition of the willing,” this group of representatives of cities throughout the county will advance its own arts agenda, based on local needs and priorities. Likely topics will include public art, creative placemaking, and affordable arts spaces.

• **Advocacy**: given the importance of a revenue source for the arts, and the impediments to creating one, this effort will begin with realistic development of potential public and private funding options identified during this planning process. This will certainly require a future communitywide public advocacy and promotional campaign for Marin’s arts and arts education.

• **Marin Center as an artistic hub**: from its base in the Marin Center, MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION will spearhead and support the plan’s objectives. As part of the anticipated Marin Center renovations, the Association will pursue opportunities to transform the facility into the County’s center for artistic innovation, collaboration, education, and resources.

• **Artistic advancement**: this will begin with a facilitated process for Marin’s artistic directors, curators and leading artists to identify artistic strengths and opportunities for artistic evolution and investment within the County.
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN?

MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION is prepared to answer the community’s call for County arts leadership and to spearhead implementation of the plan, in partnership with the MARIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL SERVICES. The Association’s board of directors is beginning work on a strategic plan that will guide its effective assumption of this important responsibility. But MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION cannot build Marin’s creative future on its own – the community vision reflected in ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! can only be realized with the community’s ongoing participation, collaboration and support. In fulfilling the strategies and actions of the plan, there will be key roles for arts and cultural organizations, artists, philanthropists, the Board of Supervisors, municipal governments, educational stakeholders, and many others.

WHO WILL PROVIDE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY?

ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! was designed by this community to serve this community. The MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION will oversee implementation and provide regular, at least annual, report-backs to the community, as well as regular convenings for targeted interest groups.

WHERE WILL THE RESOURCES COME FROM TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN?

It will take a broad range of public and private funding and other resources to achieve the community goals expressed in the plan. County and municipal governments have a powerful stake in investing in these priorities. Charitable foundations have already demonstrated a willingness to support the development and realization of this plan. And there will be many opportunities for resource-sharing partnerships with agencies and organizations in the fields of education, social services, economic development, and of course, arts and culture.

IT STARTS AND ENDS WITH YOU!

Ultimately, ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! rests in the hands of the community who built it and for whom it was created. All who care about arts and culture in Marin will be responsible for supporting the plan and advocating for the many steps ahead. Leadership opportunities abound and all voices are welcome.
“Being selected as the Art Works Downtown Max Thelen Studio Artist was a meaningful experience for me. The gift of time and space is invaluable for an artist and Art Works Downtown provided both. Their supportive and focused environment allowed me to work on projects for several exhibitions and research new possibilities. It also allowed me to participate in a creative community, providing me with the chance to present my work through art talks, open studio hours, and the 2nd Friday Art Walks.”

– Lauren Bartone
2015 MAX THELEN STUDIO ARTIST WINNER
APPENDICES

RELATED RESEARCH DOCUMENTS

The following research reports are available from MARIN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION:

1. Marin Research Report: a consolidated report of all engagement and other research conducted for ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! (except statistical valid survey, see below)

2. Statistically Valid Survey Report: methodology and findings from the statistically valid survey (conducted in January 2019)

3. Arts and Economic Prosperity Report: economic impact of Marin’s nonprofit arts sector

4. Marin Arts Education Plan: a countywide arts education plan

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  Carlos Garcia
  Carolyn Gauthier
  Heather Harris
  Marian Hubler
  Sue McQuinn
  Lauren Muszynski
  Tim Park
  Dorreen Roth
• Cities and Towns
  Danielle O’Leary
• Creative Sector Discussion Group
  Sheila Bannon
  Laura Lovett
  Richard Rosen
• ELM Focus Group
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Ana Correa
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• Literary Organization and Libraries
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Beverly Freeman
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Pashia Green
Osiezhe Gregory
Sharika Gregory
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James Mosley
Jonette Newton
Natalie Nong

• Music, Dance, Theatre
Discussion Group
Stewart Perrilat
Justin Russell
Ilia Siezhe
Tony The Artist
Ana Thomas
Carol Thomas
Chauntina Thomas
Shirley Thornton
John Wallace
Jasmine Young

• Performing Artists
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Jasson Minadakis
Sierra Salin

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  - Nita Winter
  - Kathryn Yost
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MARIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
WILHELM FAMILY FOUNDATION
WILLIAM & FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION
YOUTH IN ARTS

IN ADDITION

Students from Laurel Dell Elementary, Davidson Middle School, and Marin School for the Arts generously contributed their voices to the conversation.
Resumen Ejecutivo

Condado de Marin, Arte y Cultura
Plan Maestro | Mayo 2019
EQUIPO DE PLANEACIÓN

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JUNTA DIRECTIVA DE LA ASOCIACIÓN CULTURAL DE MARIN
COMISIÓN DE SERVICIOS CULTURALES DEL CONDADO DE MARIN

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CONDADO DE MARIN
SERVICIOS DE INFORMACIÓN Y TECNOLOGÍA DEL CONDADO DE MARIN
Desde antes de que los puertos se extendieran sobre la bahía, el condado de Marin ha atraído y engendrado una abundante concentración de talento creativo: pintores y poetas, músicos y cineastas, actores, escritores, bailarines, comediantes; innovadores en cada disciplina. Así que nuestra comunidad ha disfrutado desde hace mucho de una abundancia artística que nos une en nuestras experiencias compartidas, nutre nuestra capacidad de maravillarnos e inventar, y estimula nuestra economía local. A partir de esta historia, sería fácil pensar que el sector creativo de Marin siempre estará en apogeo sin mayor ayuda. Pero en un mundo de cambios, ¿qué tan sano es el panorama creativo en Marin y qué papel podría tener nuestra comunidad en darle forma y garantizar su propio futuro creativo? Cuando la supervisora Kate Sears nos presentó en 2016, ella sabía que estas preguntas rondaban la mente de ambas.

Poco después de esa presentación, invitamos a líderes de las artes en todo el condado, para que se nos unieran bajo el marco de la COALICIÓN POR LAS ARTES DE MARIN, y así compartir sus perspectivas sobre el estado de las artes en Marin. A lo largo de un año, fue emergiendo un retrato de un sector creativo que, a pesar de ser amplio y pintoresco, se encuentra en dificultades y se está haciendo cada vez más pequeño debido al alto costo de vida en Marin, la disminución del apoyo filantrópico y una falta de liderazgo coordinado en las artes. Entendimos que las organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro artísticas en Marin cada vez se enfrentan más a la difícil decisión de reducir los programas o cerrar sus puertas. Los artistas residentes que quedan se ven en apuros económicos debido a las oportunidades menguentes de presentarse y exhibir, y siguen dejando el condado en grandes números en búsqueda de comunidades asequibles y más propicias para las artes. Las comunidades de bajos ingresos y comunidades de color de Marin, que nunca se han visto reflejadas o han sido atendidas equitativamente en el sector creativo, se enfrentan a desafíos profundos. Aunque es parte del plan de estudios estatal, la educación artística en los 18 distritos de escuelas públicas del Condado varía ampliamente de uno a otro y, en algunos casos, prácticamente no existe.

¿Cuál fue el consenso de la Coalición? Que Marin ya no puede permitirse dejar a la suerte sus recursos artísticos que peligran: debemos planear y trabajar juntos por el futuro creativo que queremos.

Impulsados por esta misión, trabajamos junto con la ASOCIACIÓN CULTURAL DE MARIN, una organización sin ánimo de lucro dentro del paraguas del DEPARTAMENTO DE SERVICIOS CULTURALES DE MARIN, para obtener una financiación a través de subsidios y empleamos a EL GRUPO DE PLANEACIÓN CULTURAL para guiarlos en el desarrollo de un plan maestro integral de las artes y la cultura para Marin.
En Septiembre de 2018, se creó un comité directivo conformado por los líderes comunitarios y de negocios de Marin, el cual lanzó el proceso público de planeación conocido como ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! (ARTES CULTURA ACCIÓN ¡MARIN!). Este proceso de seis meses implicó a más de 1700 residentes de Marin a través de entrevistas, cuestionarios y docenas de foros comunitarios dirigidos a identificar los valores, metas y prioridades únicas de la comunidad en el ámbito de las artes. Para garantizar que el plan estuviera bien fundamentado y basado en datos, nuestro equipo condujo una investigación sin precedentes, donde trazamos el tamaño, la forma y el impacto económico del sector creativo existente en Marin. Esto incluyó un inventario y un mapa de aproximadamente 1750 negocios y organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro artísticos en Marin, y un estudio de ESTADOUNIDENSES POR LAS ARTES que documenta la contribución anual de $76.4 millones que hacen las organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro artísticas de Marin a nuestra economía.

Las metas sólidas del plan resultante están hechas a medida y con mucho cuidado para ajustarse al panorama creativo propio de Marin y a las necesidades y valores articulados por esta comunidad en sus tres objetivos globales: mejorar el perfil y visibilidad de las artes en Marin; garantizar que los beneficios de las artes lleguen a cada miembro de nuestra comunidad; y trabajar en colaboración para mantener los recursos artísticos de Marin.

Nos inspira el entusiasmo de esta comunidad y estamos agradecidas con todos los que invirtieron su tiempo y talento para ayudarnos a trazar el camino para el futuro de las artes en el condado de Marin. Agradecemos el liderazgo de nuestra Junta de Supervisores, cuyos miembros organizaron los foros en cada uno de sus distritos, y queremos agradecer especialmente a la supervisora Sears por su servicio en el comité directivo y por hacer la presentación que dio inicio a todos estos esfuerzos. Estamos deseosas de continuar nuestro trabajo todos juntos durante la implementación del plan por un Marin más creativo.

A.C. Calicchio | Directora
DEPARTAMENTO DE SERVICIOS CULTURALES DE MARIN

Tammy Edmonson
DEFENSORA ARTÍSTICA DE LA COMUNIDAD
**BENEFICIOS DE LAS ARTES**

**BENEFICIOS DE LAS ARTES**

**UNA ARROLLADORA MAYORÍA DE LOS RESIDENTES DE MARIN**
valoran las artes por sí mismas — 94%. Pero el 91 % también considera que son importantes para la comunidad. ¿Cuáles son estos beneficios? ¿Por qué importan las artes?1

**LAS ARTES FORTALECEN LA ECONOMÍA**
Las artes representaron una mayor cuota de la economía de la nación (4.2 % del PIB) que el transporte, el turismo y la agricultura (fuente: Agencia Estadounidense de Análisis Económico).

**LAS ARTES GENERAN CREATIVIDAD E INNOVACIÓN**
La creatividad está entre las cinco habilidades aplicadas que buscan los líderes de negocios, según el reporte Listo para innovar de la Conference Board [Junta de Conferencias], ya que el 72 % dice que la creatividad es de gran importancia al momento de contratar.

**LAS ARTES GENERAN TURISMO E INGRESOS PARA LOS NEGOCIOS LOCALES**
Los asistentes a eventos artísticos de las organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro gastan, aparte del costo de entrada, $31.47 por persona, por evento en aspectos como comidas, estacionamiento y niñeras: oportunidades comerciales valiosas para los negocios locales. Un tercio vienen de fuera del condado donde se está realizando el evento artístico y estos visitantes gastan $47.57 en promedio en gastos relacionados con el evento. Los viajeros del arte son turistas ideales, pues se hospedan por más tiempo y gastan más para buscar experiencias culturales auténticas.

**LAS ARTES MEJORAN EL RENDIMIENTO ACADÉMICO**
Los estudiantes implicados en el aprendizaje de las artes tienen un GPA (nota media) y resultados de pruebas estandarizados más altos, una mayor asistencia y menos tasas de abandono escolar. Los estudiantes pueden cosechar estos beneficios académicos sin importar su nivel socioeconómico. Sin embargo, el Departamento Estadounidense de Educación reporta que el acceso a la educación artística para estudiantes de color es significativamente más bajo que las de sus pares blancos.

**LAS ARTES TIENEN IMPACTO SOCIAL**
Investigadores de la Universidad de Pennsylvania han demostrado que una alta concentración artística en una ciudad conlleva una mayor participación cívica, mayor cohesión social, un mayor bienestar infantil y menos tasas de pobreza.

**LAS ARTES UNIFICAN A LAS COMUNIDADES**
El 67 % de los estadounidenses creen que “las artes unifican nuestras comunidades sin importar la edad, raza y origen étnico” y el 62 % están de acuerdo con que “las artes me ayudan a entender mejor nuestras culturas”. Las anteriores perspectivas se observan a lo largo de todas las categorías demográficas y económicas.

**LAS ARTES MEJORAN EL CUIDADO DE LA SALUD**
Casi la mitad de las instituciones de salud de la nación ofrecen programas de arte para pacientes, familias y hasta el personal. El 78 % ofrecen esos programas debido a sus beneficios de salud para pacientes: hospitalizaciones de menor duración, mejor manejo del dolor, menos medicación, tiempos más cortos de recuperación y menos depresión.

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**Cómo lo hicimos**

**Metodología de la planeación**

**Cualitativo**
- 5 reuniones del comité directivo
- Evento de lanzamiento: 125 asistentes al evento
- 28 entrevistas con los principales implicados
- 21 reuniones grupales
- 5 foros distritales, uno en cada distrito de supervisión
- Revisión y comentarios en el ayuntamiento sobre el borrador del plan: 150 personas asistieron al evento

**Cuantitativo/Observacional**
- Cuestionario comunitario abierto en línea (791 respuestas)
- Encuesta telefónica estadísticamente válida (400 respuestas, líneas fijas y de celular)
- Estudio de impacto económico de la comunidad de organizaciones artísticas sin ánimo de lucro de Marin, realizado por Estadounidenses por las Artes
- Mapa de recursos de artes y cultura
- Revisión de antecedentes de planes y estudios

**Proceso de planeación**

El proceso de planeación fue lanzado con un evento el 6 de septiembre de 2018 en el Marin Center. Más de 125 personas atendieron al evento, lo que fue una indicación clara de la importancia de este plan para los líderes comunitarios, artistas y organizaciones artísticas. Se continuó con numerosos eventos y actividades de participación cívica que buscaban escuchar las voces de los residentes de Marin.

Las preguntas centrales que hicimos fueron:
- ¿Cuál es el estado actual de las artes y la cultura en Marin?
- ¿Cómo quieren los residentes que sea el futuro?
- ¿Cómo hacemos realidad ese futuro?

La metodología de planeación, diseñada para responder a estas preguntas y muchas más, se basa en un enfoque de triangulación que usa metodologías cualitativas y cuantitativas, expertos en la materia y fuentes secundarias de datos. Este método proporciona una visión holística de los problemas. A continuación hay un breve resumen del alcance en la comunidad. En el anexo hay disponible un reporte completo de la participación y datos adicionales.
MARIN VALORA EN GRAN MEDIDA LAS ARTES Y LA CULTURA, y tiene una comunidad y herencia artística envidiable. No obstante, la abundancia artística de Marin no se comparte con todos y el sector creativo se enfrenta a desafíos significativos en cuanto a su capacidad de mantenerse y su capacidad de servir a la comunidad.

Gran apoyo del público a las artes
Los residentes sienten un gran orgullo y disfrutan de la riqueza artística del condado. El cuestionario comunitario demuestra que más del 90% de los residentes de Marin consideran que las artes son importantes para sus propias vidas y para la comunidad de Marin.

Visibilidad limitada y conciencia de las artes
Marin tiene un marketing y comunicaciones limitadas en cuanto a las artes, lo que resulta en una conciencia relativamente baja del público en cuanto a la escala, alcance y calidad de los recursos artísticos de Marin. La razón número uno por la que las personas no asisten más a menudo es que no están enterados de los eventos.

La audiencia sofisticada asiste a otros lugares
Marin tiene muchos asistentes sofisticados a eventos artísticos, pero casi la mitad asisten con más frecuencia fuera de Marin.

Programas “seguros” e identidad artística
Hay muchos programas innovadores y contemporáneos, pero también hay mucho material “seguro” dirigido hacia la mayoría de Marin: una población blanca y pudiente que se está haciendo mayor. Hay una percepción creciente de que la oferta artística de Marin es convencional y que no tiene nada que destacar.

Los artistas se mudan a otros lugares
El hecho de que hay cada vez menos oportunidades de presentarse y exhibir, junto con el costo en aumento de vivir y trabajar en Marin, hace que los artistas e innovadores a menudo deban irse de Marin para desarrollar sus carreras en entornos más asequibles y favorables.

Desafíos sistémicos para organizaciones artísticas
Las organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro artísticas y culturales tienen pocas fuentes institucionales de financiación, acceso limitado a servicios de apoyo, costos crecientes de operación y una falta de espacios asequibles y adecuados para presentaciones, exhibiciones, estudios y ensayos.
EQUIDAD CULTURAL

Desigualdad económica y racial
El condado de Marin tiene el segundo nivel más alto de desigualdad de ingresos de los 58 condados de California y el nivel más alto de disparidad racial en términos de oportunidad económica, vivienda, crimen y justicia, acceso a salud, educación, democracia y un entorno saludable.

Inequidades culturales
Las inequidades económicas y raciales de Marin son repetidas y reforzadas a lo largo del panorama cultural del condado: en cuanto a oportunidades de educación artística, tanto fuera como dentro de la escuela, está el hecho de que la oferta artística disponible no refleja o sirve de forma adecuada a las poblaciones diversas del condado. También se ve en la carga dispar que llevan las comunidades pobres y minoritarias que surgen de la poca financiación y espacio de presentación y exhibición artística. Las comunidades de bajos recursos se enfrentan a desafíos adicionales para su participación en las artes debido al aislamiento geográfico, transporte limitado, diferencias de idioma y culturales.

Organizaciones culturales que trabajan para cerrar las brechas
Hay una comunidad de organizaciones capaces pero con recursos insuficientes que ofrecen programas artísticos a comunidades de bajos recursos y unas pocas organizaciones artísticas que están trabajando para diversificar las audiencias y expandir la participación, pero el progreso en estos aspectos es todo un desafío.

El deseo del público por la equidad cultural
los residentes de Marin comparten una gran preocupación por las inequidades que existen en su comunidad: el 85 % consideró de gran importancia el ofrecer acceso a las artes a todos los residentes y familias y el 80 % consideró de gran importancia reconocer y apoyar a las comunidades diversas de Marin en las artes.

LIDERAZGO PÚBLICO EN LAS ARTES

El papel del Condado en las artes
EL DEPARTAMENTO DE SERVICIOS CULTURALES DEL CONDADO DE MARIN administra el Marin Center, produce la Feria del condado y proporciona una programación selecta para el condado, pero el Condado históricamente no ha ofrecido liderazgo o apoyo a la comunidad artística en general. El gasto neto actual en artes del Condado es de $1.6 millones y se centra en el Marin Center, que está disponible para alquilar por usuarios sin ánimo de lucro para el Auditorio Veteran’s Memorial y el Teatro Showcase.

Deseo del público por un liderazgo en las artes de parte del Condado
Una gran mayoría de los residentes de Marin (91 %) dicen que les gustaría ver que el Condado ofreciera apoyo financiero para las artes en su comunidad. Actualmente, el Condado no tiene un programa público de arte y solo un par de ciudades dentro de sus fronteras han iniciado programas públicos de arte. Sin embargo, hay un gran interés en tener más arte público visible a lo largo del condado (tanto permanente, como temporal e interactivo), dado que el 67 % de quienes respondieron la encuesta afirman que es una prioridad crear más arte público.
El sector de las organizaciones artísticas y culturales sin ánimo de lucro en Marin es una industria significativa en el condado; siendo un sector que generó $76.4 millones de actividad económica total en 2018. Este gasto, de $49.7 millones de parte de organizaciones artísticas y culturales sin ánimo de lucro y $26.6 millones adicionales en gastos relacionados con eventos de parte de sus audiencias, mantiene 1,648 trabajos equivalentes a tiempo completo, genera $40.9 millones en ingresos familiares a residentes locales y es responsable de $7.6 millones de ingresos públicos locales y estatales. Este estudio de impacto económico nos da una fuerte señal de que cuando invertimos en las artes, no solo mejoramos nuestra calidad de vida, sino que también invertimos en el bienestar económico del condado de Marin.

Este estudio hace parte del estudio nacional Artes y prosperidad económica 5 (AEP5) de ESTADOUNIDENSES POR LAS ARTES. El AEP5 es el quinto estudio de medición del impacto de la industria de las organizaciones creativas y culturales sin ánimo de lucro en la economía durante los últimos 20 años. Esta versión más reciente documenta la contribución económica de las artes en 341 comunidades y regiones diversas a lo largo del país, que representan los 50 estados y el distrito de Columbia. A nivel nacional, la industria de organizaciones artísticas y culturales sin ánimo de lucro generó $166.3 mil millones de actividad económica durante 2015; $63.8 mil millones en gastos de organizaciones artísticas y culturales, y $102.5 mil millones adicionales en gastos relacionados con eventos de parte de sus audiencias. Esta actividad mantuvo 4.6 millones de trabajos y generó $27.5 mil millones en ingresos para los gobiernos locales, estatales y federales (una rentabilidad muy por encima de su asignación colectiva de $5 mil millones para las artes).

En cada medida tomada, los resultados obtenidos son impresionantes. Este estudio acaba con el mito de que las comunidades apoyan el arte y la cultura a costa del desarrollo económico local. De hecho, las comunidades están invirtiendo en una industria que mantiene trabajos, genera ingresos públicos y es la piedra angular del turismo. El estudio Artes y prosperidad económica demuestra de forma concluyente que, a nivel local y nacional, ¡el arte es negocio!
¿QUÉ SE NECESITA...

**ABORDAR LOS PROBLEMAS SISTEMÁTICOS**
para ofrecer acceso equitativo a todas las poblaciones de artes y cultura de Marin.

**APoyAR LA EVOLUCIÓN**
y excelencia continua de las artes de Marin.

**CERRAR LA BRECHA EN RECURSOS CULTURALES DISPONIBLES,**
incluyendo artes públicas y creación de espacios creativos.

**MEJORAR LA INFRAESTRUCTURA**
de apoyo para la comunidad artística y cultural de Marin.

**OFRECEN FINANCIACIÓN SOSTENIBLE PARA LAS ARTES.**

**FORTALECER EL LIDERAZGO DE LAS ARTES.**
DEFINICIÓN DE EQUIDAD CULTURAL

Equidad cultural es la inclusión y representación justa de múltiples poblaciones diversas en el alcance y asignación de financiamiento, recursos (p. ej. instalaciones e impuestos) y programas, donde se ofrezca un trato, acceso, oportunidad y avance equitativo y justo para todas las personas, al mismo tiempo que buscan identificar y eliminar las barreras que han presentado la participación completa de algunas comunidades.

La diversidad incluye todas las formas en que las personas difieren, incluyendo, entre otros, raza, origen étnico, género, nivel socioeconómico, edad, identidad de género, orientación sexual, discapacidad, geografía, ciudadanía, religión, idioma, apariencia física y quienes se afilian a múltiples identidades. Nuestra definición también incluye diversidad de pensamiento: ideas, perspectivas y valores.

Acceso significa dar a todos los individuos y organizaciones en la comunidad un camino equitativo y justo para apreciar y verse expuesto a las artes, así como adquirir información, recursos financieros y oportunidades para lograr la expresión cultural y artística, y el desarrollo.
ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! es un plan maestro a largo plazo diseñado para cumplir con la visión y valores que la comunidad tiene para las artes y la cultura. El plan incluye tres objetivos globales y perdurables que reflejan los temas importantes de la evaluación de necesidades y que es muy poco probable que cambien a lo largo de la implementación. Representan el “qué” del plan: el cambio que se busca. Los objetivos están acompañados por estrategias que representan el “cómo”: formas de lograr los objetivos. El plan completo también incluye pasos con acciones recomendadas para conseguir las estrategias. Se espera que las estrategias y acciones puedan cambiar, a medida que cambian las circunstancias de la comunidad y surgen nuevas oportunidades. ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! está pensado como un marco o plano que debe ser adaptado para lograr de mejor forma las intenciones del plan.

1. **OBJETIVO: Desarrollar y fomentar Marin como un centro artístico y cultural.**
   1.1. Apoyar el fomento de la identidad y programación artística de Marin.
   1.2. Promover la conciencia pública, la participación y el apoyo hacia las artes y cultura de Marin.
   1.3. Mejorar el Marin Center como un centro para las artes y la cultura a nivel del condado.
   1.4. Mejorar la producción y disponibilidad de arte público a lo largo del condado.
   1.5. Ayudar a las ciudades de Marin con el desarrollo de las artes en sus comunidades locales.

2. **OBJETIVO: Garantizar que las artes de Marin son por y para todos.**
   2.1. Infundir la equidad cultural en todos los aspectos de la implementación de este plan.
   2.2. Apoyar los esfuerzos de las organizaciones artísticas de Marin para mejorar la diversidad, equidad e inclusión.
   2.3. Mejorar el acceso y participación en las artes de jóvenes y adultos de bajos recursos.
   2.4. Apoyar el acceso equitativo a la educación artística en las escuelas públicas de Marin.

3. **OBJETIVO: Sustentar y desarrollar los recursos artísticos de Marin.**
   3.1. Proporcionar los servicios necesarios a la comunidad de organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro artísticas de Marin.
   3.2. Proporcionar los servicios necesarios a los artistas individuales de Marin.
   3.3. Abordar las necesidades de espacio de la comunidad artística de Marin.
   3.4. Aumentar los recursos disponibles de financiamiento para la comunidad artística de Marin.
¿POR DÓNDE EMPEZAMOS?

Es importante dar pasos y demostrar un progreso visible a corto plazo, además de empezar a trabajar en iniciativas más ambiciosas que podrían necesitar años de esfuerzo. Las opiniones de la comunidad en el borrador del plan validaron los objetivos y estrategias, e identificaron casi todas las áreas del plan como prioridades a corto o largo plazo. En los próximos meses, la ASOCIACIÓN CULTURAL DE MARIN, junto con los equipos asesores de la comunidad, prepararán los planes de implementación para los siguientes puntos iniciales:

- **Servicios para artistas y organizaciones artísticas sin ánimo de lucro:** posiblemente incluirá una lista en línea de espacios disponibles de ensayo, presentaciones, estudios y exhibiciones; un mercado en línea como un “Craiglist para las artes” y convocatorias continuas para los artistas y amantes del arte.

- **Equidad total:** se conformará un “equipo de justifica artística” (nombre provisional) diverso e inclusive que trabajará para desarrollar una política de equidad cultural para Marin y supervisará la rigurosa implementación de los objetivos y valores de equidad articulados en el plan.

- **Red artística de ciudades en el condado de Marin:** una “coalición de los dispuesto”, este grupo de representantes de ciudades a lo largo del condado trabajarán por su propia agenda artística, con base en las necesidades y prioridades locales. Los temas que probablemente se incluirán serán arte público, creación de entornos creativos y espacios artísticos asequibles.

- **Defensa:** dada la importancia de una fuente de ingresos para las artes y los impedimentos de poder crearla, este trabajo empezará con el desarrollo realista de opciones potenciales de financiamiento público y privado identificadas durante este proceso de planeación. Esto ciertamente requerirá una futura campaña pública a nivel comunitario de defensa y promoción de las artes y la educación artística de Marin.

- **El Marin Center como un foco de artes:** desde su base en el Marin Center, la Asociación Cultural de Marin encabezará y apoyará los objetivos del plan. Como parte de las esperadas renovaciones del Marin Center, la Asociación buscará oportunidades de transformar las instalaciones en el centro del Condado para la innovación, colaboración, educación y recursos artísticos.

- **Progreso artístico:** este trabajo empezará con un proceso facilitado para que los directores artísticos, curadores y artistas principales identifiquen las fortalezas y oportunidades para la evolución e inversión artística dentro del condado.
La ASOCIACIÓN CULTURAL DE MARIN, en asociación con el Departamento de Servicios Culturales del Condado de Marin, está preparada para responder al llamado de la comunidad que exige al Condado que sea un líder artístico y para la implementación del plan. La junta directiva de la Asociación está empezando a trabajar en un plan estratégico que guiará su aceptación efectiva de esta importante responsabilidad. Pero la ASOCIACIÓN CULTURAL DE MARIN no puede crear un futuro creativo en Marin por sí misma, ya que la visión de la comunidad reflejada en ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! solo puede verse cumplida con la participación, colaboración y apoyo continuos de la comunidad. Al momento de cumplir con las estrategias y acciones del plan, habrá funciones claves para las organizaciones artísticas y culturales, artistas, filántropos, la Junta de Supervisores, los gobiernos municipales, principales implicados educativos y muchos más.

¿QUIÉN GARANTIZARÁ LA RENDICIÓN DE CUENTAS Y TRANSPARENCIA?

ARTS CULTURE ACTION MARIN! fue diseñado por esta comunidad para servir a esta comunidad. La ASOCIACIÓN CULTURAL DE MARIN supervisará la implementación y presentará reportes de situación con regularidad (al menos anualmente) a la comunidad, así como convocatorias continuas para grupos objetivo de interés.

¿DE DÓNDE SALDRÁN LOS RECURSOS PARA IMPLEMENTAR EL PLAN?

Se necesitará una amplia variedad de financiamiento público y privado, y otros recursos para cumplir con los objetivos de la comunidad expresados en el plan. El Condado y los gobiernos municipales tienen una gran participación en la inversión en estas prioridades. Las fundaciones de beneficencia ya han demostrado su disposición de apoyar el desarrollo y ejecución de este plan. Además, habrá muchas oportunidades de generar alianzas para compartir recursos con agencias y organizaciones en los ámbitos de la educación, los servicios sociales, el desarrollo económico y, por supuesto, las artes y la cultura.